



# Requirements for the Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities Special Education Certificate – Grades K-12

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

## Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K-12 Certificate

*The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and may be renewed.*

### Requirements for the Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K-12 Certificate are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for Certification](#) and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).
2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
3. **Bachelor's degree:** A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
  - o *Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) posting the degree and date awarded.
4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**

**Option A. Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a teacher preparation program in mild/moderate disabilities special education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the topics listed below and any others as required by law: Research-based systematic phonics; Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia; Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction; The learning environment, including classroom and behavioral management; Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies; Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning; Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations; Research-based instruction in math; Research-based instruction in English language arts; Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements; Language development and disorders; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2- 604 in mild/moderate special education in grades kindergarten through twelve, which may be completed during the valid period of a teaching intern certificate.

- o *Required Documentation:* Official transcripts or an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of the teacher preparation program.

**Option B. Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training.** Both of the following:

- B-1.** Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in mild/moderate disabilities special education grades kindergarten through twelve.
- o *Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience.

**-AND-**

- B-2.** Completion of Board approved or accredited coursework or trainings which teach the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and address the following topics:
- a. Research-based systematic phonics;
  - b. Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia;
  - c. Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction;
  - d. The learning environment, including classroom and behavioral management;



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- e. Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies;
- f. Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning;
- g. Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations;
- h. Research-based instruction in math;
- i. Research-based instruction in English language arts;
- j. Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements;
- k. Language development and disorders;
- l. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
- *Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

**Option C. Out-of-State Certification.** The applicant holds a valid, comparable Mild/Moderate Disabilities Special Education certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Applicants who qualify under this option are **not** required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5.

- *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state.

### 5. Professional Knowledge Special Education Exam Requirement. **One** of the following (Option A, B, C, or D):

**Option A. NES/AEPA:** A passing score on the AEPA/NES Special Education (NT 601) exam.

- *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the official NES or AEPA score report.

**Option B. Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Special Education examination from another state or agency.

- *Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or a verification letter from the state agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the exam.

**Option C. NBPTS:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

- *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

**Option D. Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in mild/moderate disabilities special education grades K-12 *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does **not** meet this requirement.

- *Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, verifying the required teaching experience.

**Option E. Previous Professional Knowledge Exam Requirement.** A passing score on the AEPA or NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary (NT 051) exam may be accepted for applications received on or before October 1, 2019 that include one of the following:

- Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree in Mild/Moderate Special Education; **-OR-**
- A letter from a college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director verifying experience teaching courses relevant to Mild/Moderate Special Education for the past two consecutive years, and a total of three years, at one or more accredited postsecondary institutions; **-OR-**
- A letter from a district/charter school Superintendent or Personnel/HR verifying expertise in Mild/Moderate Special Education through five years of relevant work experience.



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## Requirements # 6, #7, #8, #9, and #10 are allowable deficiencies which must be completed in the specified timeframe

The following requirements must be completed within **one year** or **three years** to maintain the validity of the certificate:

6. **Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.
7. **U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.
8. **Phonics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics.
9. **Dyslexia:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia.
10. **Ethics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in professional responsibility and ethical conduct.

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**Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements:** If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution and/or U.S. Constitution, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements, except that if you are certified to teach an academic course on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law, or civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements. \*\*

**Phonics, Dyslexia, and Ethics Requirements:** If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Phonics, Dyslexia, and/or Ethics requirements, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. \*\*

**\*\*NOTE:** If you do not complete the allowable deficiency requirements within the allowable time frame, your Standard teaching certificate will be **temporarily suspended** and will not be valid for employment until the deficiency is corrected. A temporary suspension for failure to meet these requirements is not considered a disciplinary action and a person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate. \*\*